



**Billing Code: 3410-30-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Food and Nutrition Service**

**Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

**DATES:** Effective Date: July 1, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Hortin, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 628, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, 703-305-4375.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in conformance with Executive Order 12866. The affected programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556, No. 10.558, and No. 10.559 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart V, and the final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983).

## **Background**

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR Part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR Part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR Part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR Part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR Part 226) and the

guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR Part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in accordance with applicable program rules.

### **Definition of Income**

In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication Eligibility Manual for School Meals, "income," as the term is used in this notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources that would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income", as the term is used in this notice, does not include any income or

benefits received under any Federal programs that are excluded from consideration as income by any statutory prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in section 12(e) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e) and 1780(b)).

### **The Income Eligibility Guidelines**

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2016 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar.

This notice displays only the annual Federal poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services because the monthly and weekly Federal poverty guidelines are not used to determine the Income Eligibility Guidelines. The chart details the free and reduced price eligibility criteria for monthly income, income received twice monthly (24 payments per year); income received every two weeks (26 payments per year) and weekly income.

Income calculations are made based on the following formulas: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole

dollar. The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the territories represent an increase of 0.2 percent over last year's level for a family of the same size.

**AUTHORITY:** Section 9(b)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)(A)).

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES											
Effective from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017											
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
<b>48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES</b>											
1 .....	11,880	21,978	1,832	916	846	423	15,444	1,287	644	594	297
2 .....	16,020	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570	20,826	1,736	868	801	401
3 .....	20,160	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718	26,208	2,184	1,092	1,008	504
4 .....	24,300	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865	31,590	2,633	1,317	1,215	608
5 .....	28,440	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012	36,972	3,081	1,541	1,422	711
6 .....	32,580	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160	42,354	3,530	1,765	1,629	815
7 .....	36,730	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919
8 .....	40,890	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023
For each add'l family member, add	4,160	7,696	642	321	296	148	5,408	451	226	208	104
<b>ALASKA</b>											
1 .....	14,840	27,454	2,288	1,144	1,056	528	19,292	1,608	804	742	371
2 .....	20,020	37,037	3,087	1,544	1,425	713	26,026	2,169	1,085	1,001	501
3 .....	25,200	46,620	3,885	1,943	1,794	897	32,760	2,730	1,365	1,260	630
4 .....	30,380	56,203	4,684	2,342	2,162	1,081	39,494	3,292	1,646	1,519	760
5 .....	35,560	65,786	5,483	2,742	2,531	1,266	46,228	3,853	1,927	1,778	889
6 .....	40,740	75,369	6,281	3,141	2,899	1,450	52,962	4,414	2,207	2,037	1,019
7 .....	45,920	84,952	7,080	3,540	3,268	1,634	59,696	4,975	2,488	2,296	1,148
8 .....	51,120	94,572	7,881	3,941	3,638	1,819	66,456	5,538	2,769	2,556	1,278
For each add'l family member, add	5,200	9,620	802	401	370	185	6,760	564	282	260	130
<b>HAWAII</b>											
1 .....	13,670	25,290	2,108	1,054	973	487	17,771	1,481	741	684	342
2 .....	18,430	34,096	2,842	1,421	1,312	656	23,959	1,997	999	922	461
3 .....	23,190	42,902	3,576	1,788	1,651	826	30,147	2,513	1,257	1,160	580
4 .....	27,950	51,708	4,309	2,155	1,989	995	36,335	3,028	1,514	1,398	699
5 .....	32,710	60,514	5,043	2,522	2,328	1,164	42,523	3,544	1,772	1,636	818
6 .....	37,470	69,320	5,777	2,889	2,667	1,334	48,711	4,060	2,030	1,874	937
7 .....	42,230	78,126	6,511	3,256	3,005	1,503	54,899	4,575	2,288	2,112	1,056
8 .....	47,010	86,969	7,248	3,624	3,345	1,673	61,113	5,093	2,547	2,351	1,176
For each add'l family member, add	4,780	8,843	737	369	341	171	6,214	518	259	239	120

Dated: March 14, 2016.

Audrey Rowe

Administrator,

Food and Nutrition Service

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